

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

Massive pressure brings vote deadlock

SUSPENDED SENTENCE

Pic: Ernie Greenwood

St Leonards Hospital has won a one month suspended sentence. This was the outcome of a deadlocked vote at September's meeting of the District Health Authority. DHA chair Louis Freedman refused to use his casting vote to save South Hackney's only remaining hospital, despite uproar from the dozens of local people packed into the Town Hall. When he attempted to close the meeting and

leave, angry protestors barred the way. In the scuffles that followed he was jostled and pushed, and eventually needed a police escort.

Later some members of the DHA continued their meeting in Hackney Hospital. At least two members who have consistently voted against closure, Joannie Andrews and Dinah Morley, were not told about this secret meeting.

A final decision was not taken at the meeting, at which Louis Freedman was described as looking "very shaken". Health Authority officers were instructed to go away and look at alternative plans for the St Leonards site "with the redeployment of clinical and non-clinical services". This would still mean the closure of the hospital.

Louis Freedman is also reported as saying that the only alternative to closure would be resignation of the DHA members and that, personally, he didn't think he could handle much more.

Before the meeting, over 1,000 people packed the Town Hall forecourt to support a rally called by Hackney Health Emergency Campaign. The crowd was addressed by Trades Council Chair Tommy Douras, Council Leader Anthony Kendall, Ernie Roberts MP and Colin Franklin, a local GP.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, General Secretary of NUPE urged people in a fiery speech to get rid of hopelessness and start to vent their anger at attacks

on the NHS. He called Thatcher's administration "the most hypocritical government in recent history."

Tory deceit

Before the election the Tories maintained that the Health Service would be safe in their hands. But since June, Bickerstaffe said, "We've seen nothing but the unfolding of page after page of their secret manifesto against the NHS." £150 million was cut from the services' financial backing following 'extra-parliamentary' pressure on the government from the City. He summed up: "They're our hospitals. NUPE is 100% behind you. Keep fighting."

Tony Benn also spoke to the demonstration. He told the crowd about a Radio London interviewer who asked him why there were so many left wingers there. "We shouldn't allow people to abuse us," said Benn. "It was left wingers who created the National Health Service."

He continued: "Our cause is the oldest trade union and socialist cause, to meet the needs of people, not profits. The National Health Service is the greatest example of socialism there is. People are treated according to their need, not their wealth. That is socialism."

"This campaign will appeal to a lot of people who never thought health was a political," said Benn. "Now we are learning differently. Our response must be a strong one."

Among the crowd, HPP spoke to Carole Woodley, a former nurse at St Leonards. "It's a very good response," she said. "I just hope it'll have an effect on the DHA. The beds at St Leonards are needed, especially for old people. Bart's sends all their geriatric patients to St Leonards."

"When I was at St Leonards staff were worried about their jobs. The hospital is already being closed down, slowly and on the quiet. It's really stupid, especially after they've spent money fixing up a new wing. They don't even use it. It's just a storeroom now," said Carole.

Local anger

Inside the council chamber, members of the public were allowed to put their views to the District Health Authority meeting for about half an hour. Andrea Campbell, a member of the health union COHSE, told the DHA: "If you vote to make hospital closures, you relinquish the right

Continued on page 8



CND get in gear for Oct 22 demo

Hackney CND are mounting a major publicity campaign to ensure that the borough's contribution to the giant national demonstration on October 22 is the biggest ever.

For the last three years CND has held a huge annual demonstration in London to show the extent of public support for its demand for a halt to the nuclear arms race. This year's demo comes at a crucial time for the Campaign, with the imminent arrival of US Cruise missiles (due in December) and the re-elected Conservative government claiming that CND has passed its peak.

Apart from distributing tens of thousands of leaflets and posters, HCND are arranging for:

- a ½ page advert in the Hackney Gazette, paid for by donations from hundreds of HCND members
- giant posters on commercial hoardings in Mare St or Stoke Newington High St
- a 60 second film trailer for the demo to be shown at

the Rio and Stoke Newington Ace cinemas

- a colourful (and noisy) motor & cyclecade touring the borough to announce the demonstration
- the making of 4,000 placards at a mammoth weekend placard-making session
- an eve-of-demo benefit at Chat's Palace on October 20 featuring the Fall Out Theatre and live jazz.

In addition to this HCND have approached Hackney Council, who have agreed to help with a grant for publicity, by distributing our posters on council hoardings and in the libraries, and flying the CND flag from the three Town Halls during the week prior to Oct 22.

"Last year a quarter of a million people joined the CND march," HCND joint secretary John Millner told HPP. "This year, to show that the Tories do not have a mandate to bring in Cruise and Trident, and to show that CND is still going as strong as ever, we need as many or even more to join us on October 22."

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PLUS: Beer Festival ✱ Women's Centre Latest

DHA Chair Louis Freedman jostled by crowd after meeting



Homelessness

Dear HPP,

At its last meeting the Hackney branch of CHAR expressed its deep concern at the plight of the single homeless. Tower House, in Whitechapel, and Providence Row, both shelters, have been acquired by the GLC which is renovating them to make them fit for human beings. However this will mean fewer rooms and so more homeless people. The Salvation Army hostel in Middlesex Street has been burned down leaving hundreds seeking somewhere to stay.

Of the hundreds of homeless people, even those in hostels are living in dilapidated buildings with rotting interiors and few facilities.

We believe the local authority has a duty to provide accommodation for those who are single and homeless. An emergency hostel should be built for those in most urgent need and it should be modern, comfortable and with every facility. Another long-stay hostel should be built for those who can't cope on their own, with bed-sitting rooms, recreation centre and both individual cooking facilities and a dining room.

Finally, as another emergency measure, the council should acquire all empty houses in the borough and do what housing associations are doing -- revitalise



letters

these houses and accommodate and, where necessary, care for the homeless.

The homeless have always been with us and there has always been a lack of desire to give these people help. Today, however the situation is worse and authority is even less willing to help, though there are willing voluntary workers. We realise that local authorities are hampered by lack of funds from central government, but locally the councils can save money in many ways and put it into housing. How about it, Hackney?

Yours sincerely,
Douglas Kepper.

Extravagance

Dear HPP,

With regard to your September issue in which you

mention a book "telling all" about the impoverishment in Hackney, I should point out that this impoverishment is spread throughout London, in those areas where allegedly democratically elected persons are given authority to administer to the needs of the people.

The impoverishment indeed is so great as to constitute a state of bankruptcy, but unfortunately our legal system is so biased that we can do nothing, via the law courts, to have the culprits brought to justice.

You may recall recent reports in the media about a man being burned to death as a consequence of setting fire to an object described as "a work of art" on the South Bank: a submarine made of motor tyres and subsidised (quite heavily) by the Arts Council.

Whereas traditionally the artist has been portrayed as starving in his/her garret while churning out "masterpieces", the situation now is that engineers and other similar workers are starving, in many cases in the streets, while overfed "artists" and "culture" purveyors are squandering huge sums of money on inanities, which ordinary people, if caught indulging in such, would find themselves hustled off to the local nut house.

It is because of these and other inanities, that Hackney, London and the country as a whole is in the state it is.

Yours,
A O'Donnell

French Connection

Ex-Hackney mayor Sam Springer joined a group of 20 black councillors and their spouses who went to France on Sunday 25 September to confront the French authorities, who have been refusing to accept 60 hour visitor's passes from Black British citizens.

During the summer immigration officials at Calais turned back Black Londoners who had gone to France for day trips.

Alf Lomas, Labour Euro MP for London North East has also raised the issue in Strasbourg. The European Commission will now investigate the case -- in spite of a declaration by top EEC ministers that it lies outside Common Market powers. A curious position to take when a more blatant example of racial discrimination by public officials or a more flagrant breach of the spirit of EEC rules is hard to imagine.

(P.S. On Sunday 25th the French immigration officials, faced with not just the 20 councillors but also with hordes of reporters and photographers, decided that the moment was one for discretion not confrontation and allowed the party through without any difficulties being made. The problem is clearly unresolved.)

METHODIST WOMEN'S CENTRE SUSPICIONS CONFIRMED

Amarjit Kochhar, the Asian Community worker at the Downs Road Methodist Women's Centre, has now been formally dismissed.

As reported in last month's HPP, Amarjit was told not to report to work by the (male) management of the Centre. At the end of August, Centre manager Ken Daniel confirmed Amarjit's sacking in writing.

In his letter to Amarjit, Daniel alleges that her work was "haphazard and inefficient" and her output "minimal". Amarjit denies these insinuations, but her only course of appeal is to the Reverend Kenneth Glendenning, husband of Amarjit's supervisor at the Centre, Asha Glendenning.

The atmosphere at the Centre is tense. Workers are shocked about the sacking and feel that their positions are insecure. Word has it that the Manpower Services Commission is putting pressure on the Centre to reduce its staff.

When Amarjit was fired, she was told not to tell anyone about her dismissal; now the management committee is blaming her for the unrest. She was invited to address the

Council's women's committee on 22 September.

A central feature of the controversy was that the police had been exercising an unhealthy influence at the centre. Hackney police committee chair Brynley Heaven revealed that the Police lost property fund had donated £1,500 to the Centre.

HPP has also received confirmation that the police took an interest in the day-to-day running of the centre. Our source explained: "When I visited the centre two policewomen in uniform were in the office."

"I visited the centre because it advertised itself as a women's centre. It turned out to be run by the Methodist Church, financed by the MSC, with paid staff. I spoke to some of the women there, some of whom had been referred by social workers. I was worried that the police were walking into the office, it is not like a normal women's centre."

"I think there is a definite need for a women's centre, but a proper one run by the women themselves."

One such centre, the Dalston Women's Centre, can be found in Dalston Lane.

Who killed Colin Roach?

In a welcome new departure, the RIO offered free showings of the video 'Who Killed Colin Roach?' for a week during September.

The video documents the campaign that erupted last January when Colin Roach was found shot-gunned in the Stoke Newington police station foyer.

Visually the film works very well, intercutting scenes from Roach demonstrations with interviews



with the Roach family and performances by Frederick Williams and Benjamin Zephaniah at the Roach Family Support Committee Benefit.

At the beginning of the video Pauline Roach forcefully

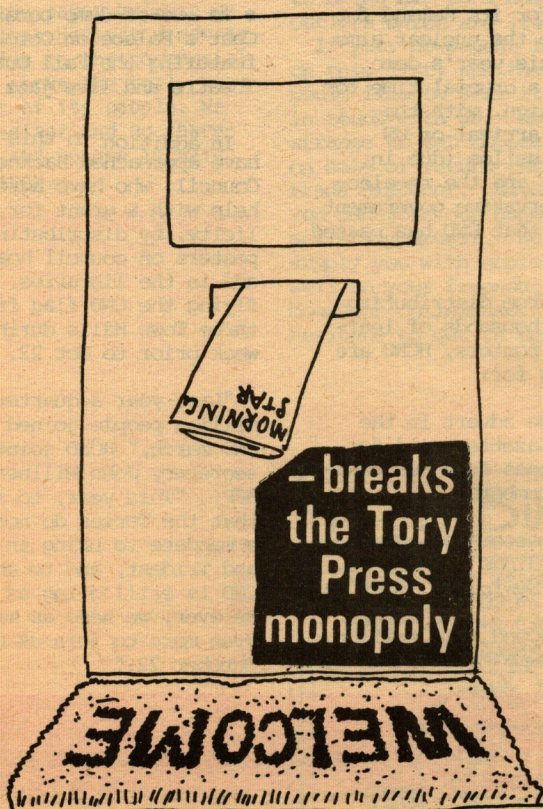
expresses the family's grievances and calls for an independent public enquiry under the 1964 Police Act. The family's anger, shock and despair is echoed by a group of marchers, outnumbered by police, who chant "We want justice" as a helicopter hovers overhead.

Colin's mother explains: "The marches were quite good, but the police decide where and when we march. Every time there's a march, the police break it up and arrest people for no reason." Mrs Roach's view is confirmed by still photographs from the March demonstration, showing the arrests of Mr Roach and Tower Hamlets councillor Dennis Twomey. Other stills show black people suffering the assaults of policemen. The photographs are a hint, but the director doesn't tell viewers that members of the video crew were arrested on the same demonstration. The film graphically depicts White Law under the current Tory administration.

At the end of the video, marchers sing "We Shall Overcome", a song of hope and defiance in the face of cynical official silence.

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Pub of the Month



THE HOWARD



The Howard Arms in N16 is sited between the Milton Gardens and Matthias estates. It used to be a classic east end boozery. The outside of the pub was painted neon blue and sparsely furnished public bar had one of those floors that looked like a chess board, made up of black and white lino squares.

Now all that has changed. This once Courage-tied house now offers a wide range of beers and real ales. The exterior has been painted a more dignified dark green and the inside has been transformed into a large lounge with wood floors and panelling. The biggest change is that the bar seems to have got up and walked about 10 yards to the back of the pub. A counter, just the right height to lean on, now separates the public and saloon bar areas without the impersonal segregation that you get with partition walls.

We arrived to find an array of hand and keg pumps and a wide selection of bottled beers nestled underneath the cut glass mirrors behind the bar. Frank Sinatra was crooning from the juke box. The hand pumps advertised Youngs, Courage and Fullers real ales, but none of these were being served on the night of our visit. On previous occasions we have sampled the beers at the Howard and they were quite acceptable. We appreciated the publican's desire not to serve beers that weren't at their best.

This meant however that our distraught real ale

connoisseur was forced to endure a half of Tolly Bitter in a totally keg environment. To less distinguished palates, the beer tasted OK. Our correspondent's anxiety was alleviated by the discovery of bottles of Courage Imperial Russian Stout. This regal concoction looks like Coca-Cola and has a rich sweet taste. It is also incredibly strong.

The Howard used to have the reputation of being a big darts pub and the tradition continues. Our pub panel repaired to the dart board for a rousing match, during which we were all beaten by a local who confided, "when some of the good players get going here, I never get a look in." The Howard was probably Eric Bristow's local when he lived in Stoke Newington.

The Howard now offers a truly pleasant environment for a drink. People of all ages, sexes and colours mix in a genuinely friendly atmosphere. At the same time the up-market facelift and free-market supply of real ales symbolise the process of gentrification that is taking place on the Western fringes of Hackney. If you can't beat them, you might as well join them... and the Howard is a good place to do it. Sunday lunchtime is a good time for a visit - and the (free) snacks are especially good.

COMMUNITY GROUPS DEBATE POLICE

BREAK ALL THE LINKS!

What sort of relationship should we in Hackney be having with the local police?

In view of the current dissatisfaction with policing in the borough and the calls for an independent public inquiry into Colin Roach's death, the community groups affiliated to Hackney Community Action debated the question at their September open meeting. This followed a request by the Roach Family Support Committee that members should withdraw from contact with the police.

In the debate, Merville Bishop of the RFSC argued that "it was unethical to associate with anyone who is kicking you." Several speakers made the distinction between contact with the police, which is often unavoidable and unnecessary links which can be avoided. It was not contradictory to use the police in the event of a break-in or attack -- after all that is what they are paid for. But we need not have any further links such as liaison or involvement in management committees.

The motion which was carried (with only one abstention and one against) reads: "Hackney Community Action asks all their member groups to break their links with the police until the demand for an independent public inquiry into the death of Colin Roach has been accepted."

If the police want us to co-operate with them, then we could consider this when they have met our demand for a full investigation of the case and the Stoke Newington police station in general.

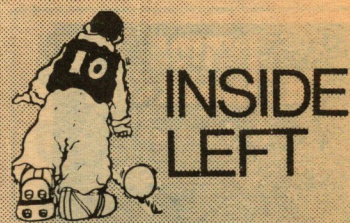
So everyone now has to consider what this means for themselves. What links do Hackney people and groups have with the police. Are they necessary? Who are they benefitting?

While it is not possible to force this policy on anyone it was pointed out that there's no point passing resolutions if they're not put into action. What HCA and the RFSC can do is explain the reasons behind the call and support anyone desiring to follow it through. For more details, advice, etc. contact RFSC on 254 7480 or HCA on 729 5536.

If anyone would like to contribute to this debate or the more general question of policing we want in Hackney, please write to the People's Press c/o 10a Bradbury St, N16.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE CO-OPTIONS - DISPUTE ENDS?

It looks as though the potential showdown between Hackney Council and the co-opted representatives on Council committees may now be avoided. At a meeting on 13 September, a number of proposals were put forward by the leader, Anthony Kendall. These will now have to be agreed by the Council as a whole. The proposals are rather complicated, but the Hackney Community Action representatives are reasonably happy with the outcome and felt that the situation had been more or less resolved with the Council apologising for acting in a hasty way.



NAPPED!

Connoisseurs of political shenanigans have had a rare treat as the result of the hottest leadership contest in the Labour Party took place in Hackney last month. No, I'm not talking about the Kinnock Derby or the Meacher-Hattersley tag contest but something much more compelling, the race for the chair of Hackney's Housing Committee. As I explained last month, this has been vacated as a result of Charles Clarke's soaring political ambition taking him into the Kinnock kitchen cabinet. I also wondered aloud why anyone should want such a thankless task and indeed many did not, as one might have expected. It seemed almost certain last month that John Bloom, a member of the new intake of May 1982, who actually lives on the De Beauvoir estate, was going to sweep unopposed into the chair.

But I reckoned without the final twist in the saga. The leadership had to get the candidate approved by the dynamic Director of the Housing Department, Tony Shoults. Word came back from his Olympian eyrie. He was not satisfied with John Bloom. Instead of forcing him, as their political subordinate, to accept their choice, the leadership had another go at finding someone more respectable. Their collective eyes hit on Hackney's answer to Charlie Nicholas, Glaswegian export John McCafferty. Despite the fact he is currently the chair of Leisure Services, and that moving him would mean moving all sorts of other people, he was persuaded to let his name go forward. This was not until after some agonising and secret 10 pm meetings.

The upshot of this was that there had to be a vote at Labour group meeting. Both candidates for this prune job were allowed to speak and outlined their dynamic ideas for fighting back against the Tory onslaught on Council housing.

Such is the popularity of the leadership these days that the vote went against the Kendall-Kahn candidate and John Bloom was elected by 22 votes to 21. This could well be a closer result than the one being held by the grown-ups in Brighton at the Labour conference.

Amnesty Books

The Hackney and Islington group of Amnesty International are holding a giant second-hand book fair on Saturday 15 October, from 10 am at St John's Church Hall, Duncan Terrace, N1. They promise thousands of books at bargain prices so here's the chance for all you local bibliomaniacs who haven't had a fix since the last HPP booksale!

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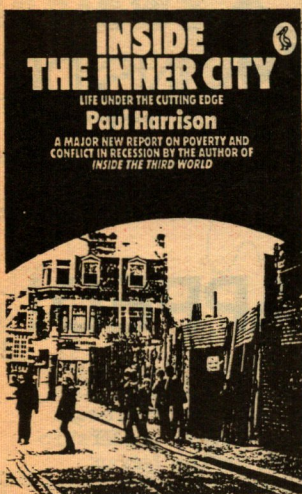
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With so many journalists living in Hackney it is not surprising that Paul Harrison's book *Inside the Inner City* has been so well covered by the media. And they have fallen over themselves in their attempts to grab their copies from the Review Editor's desk and knock out their 500 words of pithy prose. Penguin's press department must be extremely pleased with the saleable quotes with which they have been provided, and it is certain that the book will become yet another necessity on the stripped pine shelves of trendy E8 and N16.

Although it's not selling as fast as warm bagels from the Northwold Road Saturday all-night bakery, it's certainly been ringing up the cash tills at Centerprise bookshop. Which, at £3.95 a copy, is good news for Centerprise, and for Penguin, and, presumably, for Mr Harrison's royalties.

Interpretations have varied depending on the reviewer and the journal in which the articles appeared. Ken Worpole in *City Limits* described the book as belonging to an important tradition of campaigning social investigation into urban poverty, and a worthy successor to Mayhew, Booth and Jack London. "Like those key works it is informed by a singularity of argument and conviction and in its own terms is both definitive and exhaustive of possible sources. Hackney has been laid bare." Worpole goes on to describe how Harrison pours scorn on "radical chic" notions of Hackney's colourful and exciting mix of culture. These notions are supported by the kind of people described by David Widgery in *New Society* as "Hackney hoorays who write

for the Times about how spiffingly multiracial the place is."

Widgery made it clear that the book is a "brilliant disappointment: less well-researched than it would like to think, politically fatalistic and too often inaccurate." He went on to describe where he differed from Harrison's analysis. Harrison was right in describing how "the combined pressures of long-term unemployment, weak unionism, bad housing, low-expectation schooling and belligerent policing... multiply each other's negative effects, so that an appeal to self help is not only ineffective but insulting. If the conscience of modern monetarism was amenable to feeling, the remorseless evidence of this study would change history... The weakness of this book's vision is its one-sidedness and its systematic exclusion of any evidence which would detract from Hackney-as-pathology..." Here Widgery lists some of the terms with which Harrison peppers the book: 'an alien world'; 'the indescribable'; 'the dark side of a whole society' 'a Slough of Despond'.

David Widgery, of course, is a supporter of the SWP, and in the party's newspaper *Socialist Worker*, Alan Gibson and an anonymous writer make much of the book's lack of coverage of the doings of the Council itself, Labour-dominated since the 1920s. "It is no good saying that Hackney's problems are the result of the 'cycle of deprivation', the recession and the Tories. Hackney has been falling to bits for years and years, as have many other Labour controlled areas. Hackney is by no means unique in having a local Labour organisation that has never delivered the goods it has consistently promised. It is understandable that 'socialism' has become a joke for most of those living in 'socialist' boroughs like Hackney and that Labour



IMAGES OF HACKNEY: 1. Graffiti on the stairs and soul-less tower blocks?

find its old support slipping away-- not towards the Alliance or the Tories, but as the less than 55 per cent turn out at the last election indicates, towards cynicism and a rejection of politics as a whole."

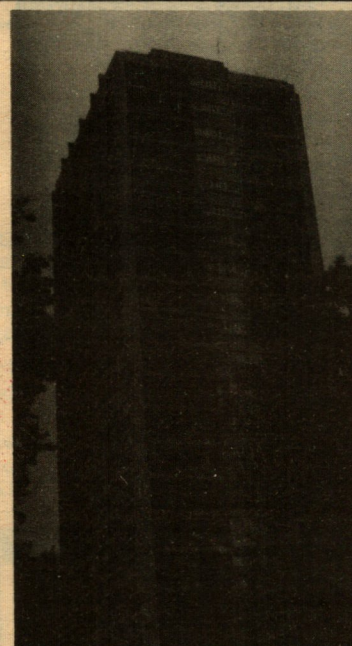
This rejection of politics is certainly true, although other factors combine to force turnouts in elections down to artificially low levels (mainly the inaccuracy of the register, and the failure of people to register at all.) However political activists who expect the starvelings to arise from their slumber in some sudden rush of political passion should note the point made by Bob Woffinden, writing in the *New Statesman*. "There is an underclass developing in our society; people who have been stripped of their livelihood, dignity and, in some cases, their will to live; whose financial and spiritual resources are equally drained. The possibility of escape, of upward mobility, is non-existent. These are the folk without electoral

Is there hope for LIFTING THE LID

needs justice or reform or resources, the less it is equipped to fight for them." For Woffinden, the remedy lies in a series of carefully interlocked local and national initiatives. On a local level, he says, there have been some encouraging developments: "a return to some form of community policing; the appointment of energetic and enlightened heads to certain schools and some improvements in health care provision." Woffinden claims to live in Hackney in his article. One wonders how much he sees around him when he makes bald statements of that inaccuracy. What he sees as a return to community policing looks like belligerent use of dogs, Instant Response Units and refusals to set up liaison with the Council to the rest of us. Improvements in health care presumably consist of deciding whether to axe St Leonards this year or postpone the decision to next.

David Widgery and Ken Worpole between them hit on the more substantial points of criticism of *Inside the Inner City*. Worpole finds a "lack of any kind of Brechtian sense that in the jungle of the cities, despite all the horrors, the cruelties, the traps and the ruthlessness, there are for many people, sometimes at only particular periods of their lives, possibilities and promises (even if they are invariably betrayed".

Widgery sees the book's omissions and errors of emphasis as not altering the "force of Harrison's argument that Hackney is 'one of two or three contenders for the title of The Most Awful Place in Britain.' But they obscure



muscle, without access to the media, without leverage of any kind. As a general rule, writes Harrison, the more a particular group of people

NOT JUST A

INSIDE THE INNER CITY author Paul Harrison told HPP he was unhappy reviewers had made such an issue of his choice of Hackney to illustrate the problems of the inner-city. "I'm sorry to have laid this trip on Hackney, but it's a book about national problems, not about Hackney. In a way I misrepresented the borough by picking out issues that I considered national problems: bad housing, crime and unemployment."

Answering charges that the book had patronised the borough and its people, Harrison said that the book was only his impression Hackney. "I'm not talki

about the radical intelligencia, but the disadvantaged themselves. I tried to go beyond my opinions and see things from poorer people's point of view."

The 'Davis' family in Hoxton were an example of this. They were suspicious of blacks and viewed the Council only as an oppressive and inefficient landlord. Harrison refers to the family (their name has been changed) throughout the book and shows that they equate the Council's socialist policies with rent and rate increases and the welfare state for them means aggravation at the dole office. "They just see what they get,"

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and deny all the evidence that a new political identity is being forged out of the adversities of the modern inner city."

Quite clearly, Hackney is not, as Labour shadow environment spokesperson Gerald Kaufman claimed in the *Times*, a "no-go area for almost all except those compelled to remain there". And, as Bob Woffinden pointed out, Harrison has only himself to blame for encouraging this dramatic hyperbole by for instance, describing routine journeys on a 38 bus as "harrowing odysseys on public transport".

But the "evidence" that David Widgery claims to see of the new political identity is fairly microscopic as well. Perhaps, if Harrison had chosen to look harder for it he might have found more. Right at the end of this quite considerable book there is a brief description of the now legendary takeover of the Town Hall during a housing committee by the Tenants of Lea View, demanding that their housing renewal

TENANT POWER: How HPP saw the Lea View tenants winning their fight.



IMAGES OF HACKNEY: 2. Community activity at local festivals?

programme should not be axed. "Raw tenant power" was how it was described by HPP at the time. Harrison wrongly says that this victory was won at the expense of others less well organised to exert pressure. The truth is somewhat different. Nothing was taken out of the programme as a result

of Lea View's inclusion, and in fact Lea View's victory brought the improvement programme for Stonebridge forward as well.

The Lea View struggle was of course only a minor victory (although of major importance to the hundreds of families that live on the estate). What it did show was that it is possible for tenants and local activists, working together, to change the course of bureaucratic decisions. The (self-styled) radical, socialist council elected in May 1982 is supposed to be getting politics back to the people in its decentralisation programme (not mentioned at all by Harrison). It is extremely unclear at the moment whether this will come off or not and we are right to be pessimistic about the difference that it would make.

It may be nit-picking to detail the small errors

in a book of over 400 pages but when small mistakes in names (calling Sam Springer Sam Shepherd and Anthony Kendall Andrew Kendall, for instance) are made then it makes for uncertainty about how accurate his other accounts are. As another example his report of the so-called "riots" of July 1981 contains some major and minor errors. The first police baton charge on Friday 10 July took place long before Paul Harrison arrived on the scene, at midnight according to the book. And, as an HPP reporter who was injured by a deliberate blow from one policeman wrote at the time, well over Harrison's figure of 23 members of the public were injured. The casualty department at Hackney Hospital had several dozen injured people being treated in the couple of hours he was there. The catalogue of innocent bystanders injured in unprovoked police attacks was detailed by a number of independent and reputable witnesses.

The problems of the inner city spread wider than just Hackney. And surely conditions here are no worse than those in some districts of say Manchester or Glasgow. But they are closer to hand to Fleet Street, the BBC and Hampstead-based journalists who write for *New Society*. They are also closer to those who wield the real power in this country. The corporate finance of the City (whose Nat West tower can be seen from all parts of the borough) and Government offices in Whitehall. It is too simplistic to think that these bodies will do anything to relieve the problems of Hackney's - and Britain's - 'underclass'. Giving wet Tories experience of appalling social conditions is hardly likely to change the face of monetarism in Thatcherite Britain. Massive political action just might, if fuelled by the demand for change. And there's only one place where that can come from - the community itself.

Community campaign for more money and resources

Save Hackney - that's the name and goal of a new initiative to defend jobs, health and the whole range of community and social services currently threatened by Government cuts and the winding down of the Inner City Partnership funds.

A meeting has been called to plan the campaign, too late in the month for a full report in this issue, but we can outline some of the thinking behind the campaign.

Massive reductions in money available to both community groups and council services threaten hundreds of jobs and the standard of living of all Hackney people. So what's to be done, how can Hackney defend itself?

The idea is that as actions speak louder than words, the time has come to talk less and do more. A week, probably in December, is to be used for a concentrated campaign to get more resources for Hackney. The role of the council is unclear, but they may help to back up this community-initiated campaign. Most of the action is likely to be held in central London, near the City institutions and Westminster perhaps, rather than remaining preaching to the converted in Hackney. Groups will be encouraged to organise their own events to influence various government departments.

Look out for more details of this campaign in the November and December HPPs. Meanwhile start thinking about what you/your group can do to help save Hackney from becoming even more deprived.



LOCAL PROBLEM

said Harrison.

"But the inner-city situation in an area like Hackney is not just about poverty and recession," continued Harrison. "This government has increased the burden of taxes on poor people and cut rate support grants to the large metropolitan councils. If you add these things up, it's a tremendous blow to inner-city areas like Hackney. You need change on a national level."

Harrison accepted that he had, to some extent, ignored local initiatives. He did say however, that he had referred to the somewhat dubious example of the

Council's decentralisation plans. "Obviously the problems of the inner-cities require national solutions," said Harrison, "but anything the council and local community groups can do is good. Partnership is especially helpful, as long as the government doesn't undermine its funding."

Despite the criticisms of his portrayal of Hackney, Harrison is happy with his choice. He began his research before the DoE released its famous "league tables" of social indicators that showed Hackney at the bottom. "I knew a little about the area and it exhibited the conditions

I wanted to write about. Hackney was the nearest such area to where I lived (in Hampstead)" said Harrison.

Harrison's heroes are Charles Booth and Henry Mayhew. Like them he wrote *Inside the Inner City* both as a campaigning social document and "a social portrait of what we're going through now." He is under no illusions that his book will influence the present government, but aimed it at 'people of good will' in all the parties. "I wrote it because I felt I had to," he said.

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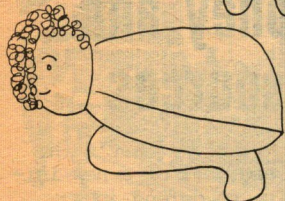
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REVIEWS

Jj

Jackie can jump
over Janet.



"Anna to Zoulla: an a.b.c. colouring book by infants at a Hackney school"
Compiled by Mara Chrystie.
Published by Centerprise at 80p.

This book has arisen out of the work of some infants at Hackney's Harrington Hill Primary School. It was produced as part of a project which looked at how girls and boys, women and men, are portrayed in the media.

The children each undertook to do a drawing which showed themselves as being 'adventurous, friendly and co-operative'. In all, there are twenty-six illustrations following the letters of the alphabet. With two exceptions -

Q and X - these describe by picture and caption the activity of a child (or children) whose name starts with that letter.

In respect of its aim, "Anna to Zoulla" fills a gap in the market as well as being a very attractive looking book. It should have lots of appeal to young children. Centerprise is to be congratulated on publishing it and, by doing so, making the lively work of the Harrington Hill infants widely available.

In the blurb, Centerprise points out that it is very interested to hear from any other local schools which are thinking of (or who are already) producing their own materials.

"An independent woman" by Icilda, "Doing my flat up" by Darcy Edwards; "I got it right" by Karen Smith (Part of a series from Hackney Reading Centre, published by Centerprise at 40p each)

These are the first three titles in a series published by the Hackney Reading Centre. Written by students who have attended the centre, they describe everyday situations in a straightforward way.

The booklets ably fulfil a need for multi-ethnic non-sexist material in the teaching of reading. It was a good idea to get the students themselves to write the text, as each title takes a familiar problem area and in doing so tells how the individual concerned overcame her initial lack of confidence. The booklets therefore help to develop the students' reading ability as well as their life and social skills. Opposite each page of text there is a drawing illustrating what has been written.

I paint the ceiling.
You should see me.



WEA AUTUMN PROGRAMME

WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION classes: The Mental Distress in Old Age course of 6 weekly meetings which started on Sept 20 continues at the Community Health Council office at Shoreditch Health Centre 210 Kingsland Road, E2 at 7pm. The **WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP** which started on Sept 26 at Hoxton Hall can be contacted on 739 5431.

WOMEN WRITERS' WORKSHOP: primarily for women new to writing, the meetings are used either for discussion of their own work or for discussing aspects of writing more generally. Convenor: Rebecca O'Rourke; start **Thurs Oct 13 11am to 1pm** at Centerprise. 9 meetings.

STRESS AND RELAXATION: The Course will discuss definitions of stress, the situations that cause it and how people deal with it. The course will look at diet and explain and discuss the value of various kinds of relaxation techniques. The course is being run in conjunction with the City and Hackney Association for Mental Health. Tutor: Pam Denard-Lorrimore. Start **Weds 5 Oct at 2.30pm** at the Ufton Centre

12 Ufton Road, N1. 9 meetings. High Street, E8. Total of 9 meetings.

STRIKE SONGS: A local history project. A daytime class starting with a look at the strikes at the Rego and Polikoff clothing factory. It is hoped to interview some of the people who took part and then go onto look at the way songs have been used in movements of popular protest up to and including the Greenham Common pickets. Convenor Maggie Hewitt, start **Weds 12 Oct 11am to 1pm** at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland

ACCOUNTANCY FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS: run by the Community Accountancy Project in conjunction with the Adult Education Institute. 12 weekly classes at the Cypriot Centre, 5 Balls Pond Road, N1, from Tuesday, 4 October, 7-9 p.m. The course fee is a very reasonable £1. Tel: Andreas or Ann on 249-7109 (CAP office) for further details and the availability of places.

JOBS

Second Community Worker wanted for the **Springfield Project**, a tenant controlled project working on estates in Upper Clapton. 27 hours per week.

AP4. For more information and application form, write to Springfield Project, Lea View Community Hall, Springfield, E5, or phone 806 9617. Closing date 22 October.

Centerprise, multi-purpose community centre, requires an experienced bookkeeper/fund-raiser (preferably with experience of working with a double-entry ledger system and a trading account.)

S/he will be part of the collective, sharing work and responsibility throughout the whole project.

Applicants from ethnic minorities and job sharers welcome.

Salary: £8400. For details send s.a.e. to Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8 2NS. Closing date 1 November.

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★ ★ OCTOBER BANDSTAND ★ ★

MONDAYS	REACTORS	£1.00
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WEDNESDAY 5th	STEP BY STEP	£1.00
12th, 19th & 26th	POOR BOYS	£1.00

THURSDAY 6th	CAYENNE	£2.00
THURSDAY 13th	HANK WANGFORD	£2.50
THURSDAY 20th	GINO WASHINGTON	£2.50
THURSDAY 27th	HANK WANGFORD	£2.50

FRIDAYS	JUICE ON THE LOOSE	£1.50
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SATURDAYS	BIG CHIEF	£1.50
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SUNDAY 2nd & 9th	NEOPOLITAN	£1.50
SUNDAY 16th	THE REPUBLIC	£3.00
SUNDAY 23rd	CHEVALIER BROS	£2.00
SUNDAY 30th	DANCE HALL STYLE	£1.50

Reduced Admission most nights for claimants and students on production of UB.40 or student-union identity cards.

music every night

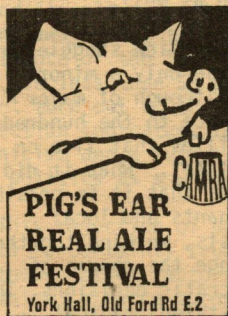
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12-15th OCTOBER '83

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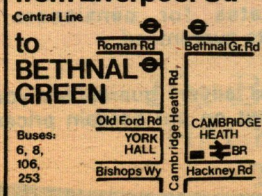
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WHAT'S ON

Music

THE CHESTNUTS FOLK CLUB:

Based at The Chestnut Tree Public House on Lea Bridge Road (just before the Whipps Cross Roundabout). The club is upstairs and the Ind Coope and Taylor Walker Beer is usually very good. A lively club worth the bus journey. Sunday night sessions in October are as follows:

2nd: Andrew Frank and Michael Hebbert plus the Dan Quinn Trio.
9th: Special Ceilidh night with Ticklers.
16th: Noel Murphy.
23rd: Bob Fox and Stu Luckley.
30th: Martin Simpson plus Mabsant.
All Sunday nights start at 7.30pm.

New: monthly Friday night Ceilidhs. This month on 21st Oct with the Islington based band Flowers and Frolics, 8.30pm start.

STRIKE SONGS at THE CROWN AND CASTLE: An evening of entertainment, food and drink; strike songs sung by Sandra Kerr poetry and cabaret on the clothing industry and women's work. Friday Oct 14 at 8pm, Crown and Castle Dalston Junction, £1/50p concessions.

Half Moon Theatre
213 Mile End Road, E1.
790 4000.

From Oct 12:
His Master's Voice by David Anderson. An exciting rock musical concerning the exploits of a young punk musician.

Theatre

Theatre Royal Stratford
Gerry Raffles Square, E15
534 0310

Until 22 October:

Gas and Candles, a comedy by David Henry Wilson, with Doris Hare and Derek Francis. 8.00 nightly, Mon - Sat.

Sun 9 Oct: Reggae Double Bill with Benjamin Zephaniah and Laural and Hardy. 8.00 pm.

Sun 16 Oct: Royal Variety Night hosted by Kate Williams. 8.00 pm.

Sun 23 Oct: George Melly and John Chilton's Feetwarmers. 8.00 pm.

Stoke Newington Assembly Hall:

Mon 3 Oct: Beauty and the Beast by Debussy. Classical ballet by the Alexander Roy London Ballet Theatre. 7.00pm Free admission. (Hackney Festival 83).

Theatre Venture

at the Tom Allen Centre, Grove Crescent Road, E15. 555 7289

Until 8 October: Night Shift by John Derbyshire. 'Times are hard ... jobs are scarce ... you could lose yours on the night shift.'

Theatre Venture's policy is to produce contemporary writing dealing with social issues. Further information from Lyon House, Deanery Road Stratford, E15. Tel: 519 4645

Cinema

HACKNEY FILM SOCIETY: The new season of films starts on Oct 13. The society is open to all Hackney residents and the films are shown every Thursday at 7.30 in the Homerton Library, Homerton High St, E9. Membership costs £5 for the 20 shows in the season, excellent value! Concessions are available, for more details contact Vivienne Griffiths, The Secretary H.F.S., 35 Mehetabel Road, E9.

13 Oct: **Midnight Express.**

20 Oct: **Animal Crackers** -

one of the classic Marx

Brothers films with some

lovely dialogue exchanges.

27 Oct: **Les Parapluies De**

Cherbourg - with Catherine

Deneuve.

3 Nov: **Easy Rider.**

Other films in the autumn season include The Shout, Jour De Fete (Tati's first comedy and still one of his best) and American Werewolf in London. As this is a film society the audience have to be members or their guests, so join now or at the first performances.

HACKNEY FESTIVAL- HACKNEY FILM SOCIETY

are presenting a number of films as part of this years festival. The films will be shown in Homerton Library, Homerton High Street, E9 at 7.30. Free tickets are available from Libraries, Baths, Sports Centres and on the door if any places are still available.

Oh! What a lovely War.

Thursday 6 October.

A savage indictment of the futility of War, presented in words and song.

La Grande Illusion.

Friday 7 October.

Set in a first world war prison camp this film concentrates on the human qualities such as comradeship which unite men of different nationalities. This film has the distinction of having been stopped mid-reel by the Germans during their occupation of Europe during the second world war!

Other events

HACKNEY CND and East London Co-op present an Eve of Demo Benefit on Thursday Oct 20 (to help pay for the publicity for the Oct 22 CND Demo). FALL OUT THEATRE in "The Galaxy's Guide to Survival", plus live jazz from the Park Drive 5. At Chats Palace, 8pm. £2/£1 unwaged.

IRISH SOLIDARITY DEMONSTRATION

Saturday 1st Oct, assemble 1pm

at Bidborough Street, Kings

Cross.

CONFERENCE: Build a united

Irish Solidarity Movement,

one day national conference.

Sunday Oct 2nd Caxton House

St. John's way, Archway.

Sponsors include the Stoke

Newington and Hackney Defence

Campaign.

Both events have been called

by the 1 October mobilising

Committee, for further infor-

mation write to BM Box 4835

London WC1N 3XX.



The 1982 East London Beer Festival: See Advertisement opposite and notes below for details of this year's.

Picture: Ian Pridley.

Those of you who enjoyed last year's Beer Festival at York Hall, Bethnal Green, will be pleased to know that the Festival is on again this year. If you missed out last year then go along between 12 and 15 October this year and sample some of the 14,000 pints of beer and cider from 16 plus breweries around the country.

Specially produced souvenir glasses will be available, also a Festival ale: 'Pig's Ear Special', brewed by Pitfield Brewery, the only off-licence brewery in Britain (soon to be visited by our Pub of the Month team). Also on sale for the first time will be

the "East London & City Beer Guide", a 140 page comprehensive guide compiled by members of the East London & City branch of CAMRA and costing £1. In addition to full descriptive comments on all pubs that serve real ale, every pub (there are over 1,000) in the area is listed. Another valuable feature are street maps provided throughout marking Real Ale pub locations.

Entertainment will be provided at each session-- Thursday evening is the turn of Blozabella, a well respected folk group, on Friday evening Ken Simms and his Dixie Kings and on Saturday evening the Temperance Seven Jazz Band.

CHATS PALACE

HOMERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

42 BROOKSEY'S WALK E.9. 986 6714

OCTOBER

Sat 1	8.00pm	Chats Palace Fundraiser with See You In Vegas, DeLuxe Dummies Puppets and surprises. £1.50.
Sun 2		Noon Lunchtime Jazz with Ruthie Smith and friends. Free.
Sun 2	8.00pm	Chats Palace Fundraiser Grand Finale Cabaret Night with Spare Tyre Theatre Company, The Touch, John Hegley and The Popticians and much more. £1.50.
Wed 5	8.30pm	"Do It Yourself" Pub Night in the bar with Tony Locantro on piano and guest performers (see programme news) Free.
Thur 6	8.30pm	Trad Jazz in the bar Free.
Fri 7	7.30pm	Chats Palace Youth Night. Dance to jazz, funk, soul and lovers rock with premiere ZEB sound system and a reggae lovers band. £1.50/£1 unwaged.
Sat 8	8.00pm	Chats Palace welcomes back "Mr. George Binmores Celebrated Music Hall" £2/£1 unwaged.
Sun 9		Noon Lunchtime Jazz with The Rae James Quintet. Free
Wed 12	8.30pm	"Do It Yourself" Pub Night in the bar with Tony Locantro on piano, guests and yourselves. Free.
Thur 13	8.00pm	*September in the Pink, lesbian and gay arts festival with Abandon Your Tutu, Funk on the Jambaggon, Xs, and Diane Pacey. Women's Event. £2/£1 unwaged.
Fri 14	8.00pm	*September in the Pink with High Jinx, Bronski Beat, Fortuna North, Toby Son of Sodom and The Empress of Hackney. Mixed Evening. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sat 15	8.00pm	Take your partners by the hand for the Chats Palace Barn Dance with Bees Knees. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sun 16		Noon. Lunchtime Jazz with Jazz Sviners. Free
Wed 19	8.30pm	"Do It Yourself" Pub Night in the bar with Tony Locantro on piano, guest performers and yourselves. Free.
Thur 20	8.00pm	*Hackney CND with East London CRS present "The Galaxy Guide to Survival" by The Fall Out Theatre Company. £2/£1 unwaged.
Fri 21	8.00pm	*E.L.T.O.M. benefit an Irish Night with traditional music and a Ceilidh Band. £1.50/£1 unwaged.
Sat 22	8.00pm	Theatre of Black Women in The Story of Black Women £2/£1 unwaged.
Sun 23		Noon. Lunchtime Jazz with The Clark Tracey Quartet. Free
Wed 26	8.30pm	"Do It Yourself" Pub Night in the bar with Tony Locantro on piano, guest performers and yourselves. Free
Thur 27		*Rushmore Labour Party, party. Invitation only.
Fri 28	7.30pm	Chats Palace Youth Night with Maka-D mike M.C., Black Emphasis, Burning Bush and ZEB sound system. £1.50/£1 unwaged. Please bring UB40 or student card
Sat 29	8.00pm	7:84 in Spike in the First World War the "critics choice" from The Edinburgh International Festival. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sun 30		Noon. Lunchtime Jazz with The Mike Mower Quartet. Free

*Indicates outside hire

OCTOBER
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FEATURES		MATINEES WEDNESDAYS	
THU 29	 Olivia a film by Jacqueline Audry from the novel 'Olivia' by 'Olivia'	SUNDAY 2 2.00pm	Olivia
FRI 30			
SAT 1			
SUN 2			
MON 3			
TUE 4			
WED 5			
THU 6	 Heat and Dust Merchant Ivory Productions Jane Fonda, Anthony Hopkins, John Gielgud, John Wood, John Wood, John Wood	THURSDAY 6	THE GREAT ROCK 'N' ROLL SWINDLE 2.00pm (All tickets & prices)
FRI 7			
SAT 8			
SUN 9			
MON 10			
TUE 11			
THU 13	 Querelle Based upon the novel by Jean Genet A monument to Fassbinder's career, a cause celebre	THURSDAY 13	LOVE OF THE FLY 2.00pm (All tickets & prices)
FRI 14			
SAT 15			
SUN 16			
MON 17			
TUE 18			
NINE DAYS OF LIVE MUSIC AND FILMS			
THU 20	LIVE MUSIC	FILMS	NOTES
FRI 21	R&B Night with Carole Grimes et al.	The Blues Bros. + Bessie Smith film	THE RIO in conjunction with HACKNEY MUSIC FORUM present NINE DAYS OF LIVE MUSIC AND FILMS.
SAT 22	Jenako Arts present Supercombo et al.	African Sanctus	
SUN 23	In association with Melodia, music from To the Finland Station and A popular History of signs, film to be announced.		
MON 24	"Matinee: Freeform arts trust present a piano accompaniment by Louis O'Neill to the silent film Sunrise and Nosferatu. Evening: Irish Music and Film.		
TUE 25	The Guest Stars (Female Jazz Band)	Forty Second Street and Symphony in Black (with D. Ellington & B. Holiday)	"An opportunity to provide a forum for the wide diversity of local musical talent and to bring this together with films of a similar theme."
WED 26	Reggae Evening with Pyramid Arts and Triangle Music. Original Creators et al.	Rockers.	
THU 27	Classical Music with The Heyman String Quartet.	From Mao to Mozart and Rehearsal.	
FRI 28	Hackney Musicians Collective present The Parkdown Jets and Walking Wounded.	The Last Waltz and Boogie Woogie Dream.	Thanks to FREEFORM for support and technical advice.
SAT 29	Holloway All Stars.	Always for Pleasure.	

THIRD EYE FILM FESTIVAL RING THE CINEMA FOR MORE DETAILS ON 254 6677.

Suspended Sentence

Continued from page 1

to run health services in Hackney. We'll take on the Regional Health Authority and the Government to run these hospitals. If you vote to close, then you'll have to take us on. If necessary, we'll occupy every hospital in Hackney."

Hackney South MP Brian Sedgemore also addressed the Authority. "You are in danger of treating the people of Hackney with contempt." He continued: "Working people are fed up with the patronising attitudes of middle-class people who decide what is best for them. You have not carried out your statutory obligation to consult with the Community Health Council. We have taken legal advice and if you vote for closure we will fight you in the courts, in parliament, with occupations and if necessary in the street."

Lucy de Groot summed up on behalf of the Hackney Health Emergency campaign. She attacked artificial

measurements like "throughput" that made hospitals sound like a Mini-Metro production line. "That is absolute rubbish," she said.

De Groot also criticised the Authority's proposals for increased "Community care." Hackney has the highest national proportion of pensioners living on their own and enough housing and social problems to launch a thousand sociological studies. Community care was an insult unless paid staff were hired and resources committed to health care in Hackney. "If members of the District Health Authority don't know that," she said, "then they shouldn't take a vote, but take a walk."

She continued: "Don't close St Leonards as a quickie financial cut to solve longer term problems. The DHA should go to the Regional Health Authority. One thousand people outside are willing to go with you to the Regional authority to make that point. Your responsibility by sitting on the District Health Authority is to fight for resources for Hackney. If you don't want to do that, then you should resign."

When members of the DHA spoke who were hostile to St Leonards their speeches were interrupted with calls

of "Where do you live?" One Barts consultant was so stung by this that he replied that he came from the Isle of Man and lived in Harrow! Local GP Dr David Sloan's reply that yes, he did live in the borough was greeted with cheers.

But despite the overwhelming number of letters and protests they had received, half the authority was unmoved. The final vote was tied at 8 votes each. As the 8 members stood to cast their votes for retaining St Leonards they were given a standing ovation.

Now they all have to come back and discuss St Leonards again next month. It is unlikely that they will consent to meet again in Hackney Town Hall.



Hackney Health Emergency, the campaign set up to fight for the Health Service in the borough, will be holding its next meeting on Tuesday 18 October, at 7.30 pm in the Trades and Labour Club, 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Future plans for the campaign, and what to do about the next DHA meeting will be discussed then. Contact the campaign on 249 8086 or 249 4828 for details.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Perhaps this issue of HPP is the first one you've ever seen. Perhaps you've bought the odd copy in the past, but never regularly. Perhaps you are a devoted monthly reader (there are some!).

Whatever you are, did you know that you can help write or produce the next issue? All you have to do is come to our open editorial meeting, which will be held in Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8 at 8pm On Wednesday, 19 October.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders, and no one is paid by the paper.

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HPP OUT ON THE STREETS

Some people have told us that finding a copy of HPP in Hackney is almost as difficult as finding a job.

In fact, every month our distribution team of highly skilled individuals criss-cross the borough by a host of different methods of transport to bring HPP to a host of outlets which are listed below.

If your newsagent is not on this list, ask them if they would like to sell it and get in touch with us. We will arrange to get copies to them, on sale or return terms, with trade discount. Alternatively you can join our happy band of sellers yourself. We can supply you with copies to sell to your friends, neighbours or colleagues. Don't hesitate to get in touch!

E5 Sparrows, 108 Upper Clapton Rd.

101 Upper Clapton Road.

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Upalls, Millfields Road.

K & T, Nightingale Estate.

Pratts, 1 Kenninghall Road.

159 Clapton Common.

E8

Asaria, 159a Mare Street.

Roundabout, 368 Mare Street.

Griffiths, 230 Graham Road.

15 Dalston Lane.

Durant, Haggerston Road.

Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street.

Rio Cinema, 107 Kingsland High Street.

E9

Huggetts, 246 Morning Lane.

Cameron's, 250 Morning Lane.

Workshop, 77a Lauriston Road.

Danny's, 85 Lauriston Road.

N16

Akram, 39 Oldhill Street.

Franklins, 141 Green Lanes.

Griffiths, Albion Parade.

Fox's Wine Bar, 176 Stoke Newington Church Street.

Paleja, 117 Stoke Newington Church Street.

J & P, 39 Stoke Newington Church Street.

Barnard, 49 Kynaston Road.

Alpa, 73 Stoke Newington Road.

Lovells, Stoke Newington High Street.

KM, 52 Evering Road.

Food For All, 3 Cazenove Road.

Elsewhere

Bread and Roses, 316 Upper St. Street, N1.

Other Bookshop, 326 Upper Street, N1.

Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, N4.

Sunpower, Blackstock Road, N4.

Hackney Community Action office, Shoreditch Town Hall, EC1.

Chestnuts Folk Club, 757 Lea Bridge Road, E17.

PETTY BUREAU

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